

REMARKS

At the outset, the Examiner is thanked for the thorough review and consideration of the pending application. The Office Action dated October 27, 2006, has been received and its contents carefully reviewed.

Claims 1-7 are rejected to by the Examiner. Claims 1, 4, 5, and 7 have been amended. No new matter has been added. Claims 1-7 remain pending in this application.

Applicants thank the Examiner for courtesies extended during an interview with Applicants' representatives on January 31, 2007. During the interview, claims were discussed and the prior art reviewed. See Interview Summary, Paper No. 20070130, dated January 31, 2006. This Amendment and Response is believed to be responsive to the interview and is believed to address the Examiner's rejections.

In the Office Action, claims 1-7 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Japanese Patent Publication No. 2000-162593 to Nishiyama (hereinafter "Nishiyama").

The rejection of claim 1-7 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Nishiyama is respectfully traversed and reconsideration is requested. Applicants submit that Nishiyama does not disclose explicitly or inherently, every element of the claims.

Claim 1 recites a back light unit having a combination of features including "a plurality of lamps respectively having a low voltage electrode and a high voltage electrode each at opposite ends of the lamp, the lamps arranged substantially parallel in the lamp housing, a first end of each lamp nearer to the first side of the housing than to the second side of the housing so that the low voltage and the high voltage electrodes at the first ends of the lamps are alternately disposed at the first side of the lamp housing." Claim 5 recites a liquid crystal display which includes a backlight that includes the same combination of features recited in claim 1.

Applicants submit that Nishiyama does not disclose lamps arranged as recited in claim 1 and claim 5. Accordingly, Applicants submit that Nishiyama does not anticipate claims 1 and 5.

Applicants note that claims 2-4 and claims 6 and 7 depend respectively from claims 1 and 5, and that each includes by reference all of the limitations of the respective base claims.

Accordingly, Applicants respectfully submit that Nishiyama does not anticipate claim 2-4, 6, and 7 at least for the reasons given for claims 1 and 5.

Applicants believe the foregoing amendments and remarks place the application in condition for allowance and early, favorable action is respectfully solicited.

If for any reason the Examiner finds the application other than in condition for allowance, the Examiner is requested to call the undersigned attorney at (202) 496-7500 to discuss the steps necessary for placing the application in condition for allowance. All correspondence should continue to be sent to the below-listed address.

If these papers are not considered timely filed by the Patent and Trademark Office, then a petition is hereby made under 37 C.F.R. § 1.136, and any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. § 1.136 for any necessary extension of time, or any other fees required to complete the filing of this response, may be charged to Deposit Account No. 50-0911. Please credit any overpayment to deposit Account No. 50-0911. *A duplicate copy of this sheet is enclosed.*

Respectfully submitted,

Dated: February 20, 2007

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